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on

NUCLEIC ACID ENCODING DS-CAM PROTEINS AND PRODUCTS RELATED THERETO

by

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Sheets of Drawings: Four

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NUCLEIC ACID ENCODING DS-CAM PROTEINS AND PRODUCTS RELATED THERETO

This is a non-provisional application based on, and claims the benefit of, U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/029,322 filed October 25, 1996, the content of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to nucleic acids and proteins encoded thereby. Invention nucleic acids encode a novel N-CAM member of the immunoglobulin superfamily of proteins. The invention also relates to methods for making and using such nucleic acids and proteins.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Research spanning the last decade has significantly elucidated the molecular events attending cell-cell interactions in the body, especially those events involved in the movement and activation of cells in the immune system. See generally, Springer et al., Nature **346**:425-434, 1990. Cell surface proteins, and especially the so-called Cellular Adhesion Molecules ("CAMs") have correspondingly been the subject of pharmaceutical research and development having as its goal intervening in the processes of leukocyte

extravasation to sites of inflammation and leukocyte movement to distinct target tissues. The isolation and characterization of cellular adhesion molecules, the cloning and expression of DNA sequences encoding such molecules, and the development of therapeutic and diagnostic agents relevant to inflammatory process, viral infection and cancer metastasis have also been the subject of numerous U.S. and foreign applications for Letters Patent. See Edwards, Current Opinion in Therapeutic Patents **1(11)**:1617-1630, 1991 and particularly the published "patent literature references" cited therein.

Numerous CAMs have been characterized to date. See, for example, vascular adhesion molecule (VCAM-1) as described in PCT WO 90/13300; platelet endothelial cell adhesion molecule (PECAM-1)described in Newman et al., Science **247**:1219-1222, 1990; and PCT WO 91/10683; and the following U.S. Patents: 5,525,487; 5,235,049; 5,272,263; 5,489,233; 5,264,554; 5,318,890; 5,389,520; 5,519,008; and the like.

There is substantial evidence that N-CAM and its relatives play an important part in neural development (Edelman and Crossin, "CELL ADHESION MOLECULES: Implications for a Molecular Histology", Ann. Rev. Biochem. **60:**155-190, 1991; and Walsh and Doherty, Curr. Opinion in Cell Biol. **5:**791-796, 1993). For example, antibodies directed against N-CAMs disturbed the normal growth pattern of nerve processes. N-CAM (locus 11q23.1) is expressed in large amounts in cells of the developing neural tube, but when neural crest cells dissociate from the neural tube and migrate away, they lose N-CAM, only to reexpress it later when they reaggregate to form a neural ganglion. In addition,

Rosenthal et al., (Nature Genet. 2:107-112, 1992) reported that mutations in CAM-L1 (locus Xq28) cause X-linked hydrocephalus, and Jouet et al., (Nature Genet. 7:402-407, 1994) showed that mutations in CAM L1 gene are responsible for type 1 X-linked spastic paraplegia and MASA syndrome which shows agenesis of the corpus callosum. Therefore, there is a need in the art to identify and isolate novel N-CAM members of the immunoglobulin superfamily so that their role in neural development and neural cell communication can be determined.

Therefore, there continues to be a need in the art for the discovery of additional proteins participating in human cell-cell interactions and especially a need for information serving to specifically identify and characterize such proteins in terms of their amino acid sequence. Moreover, to the extent that such molecules might form the basis for the development of therapeutic and diagnostic agents, it is essential that the DNA encoding them be elucidated. The present invention satisfies this need and provides related advantages as well.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

In accordance with the present invention, there are provided isolated nucleic acids encoding novel mammalian N-CAM (neural-cell adhesion molecule) members of the immunoglobulin superfamily of proteins, referred to herein as Down Syndrome-Cell Adhesion Molecules (DS-CAMs). Further provided are vectors containing invention nucleic acids, probes that hybridize thereto, host cells transformed therewith, antisense oligonucleotides thereto and related compositions. The nucleic acid molecules described herein can be

incorporated into a variety of recombinant expression systems known to those of skill in the art to readily produce isolated DS-CAM proteins. In addition, the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention are useful as probes for assaying for the presence and/or amount of a DS-CAM gene or mRNA transcript in a given sample. The nucleic acid molecules described herein, and oligonucleotide fragments thereof, are also useful as primers and/or templates in a PCR reaction for amplifying genes encoding DS-CAM proteins.

In accordance with the present invention, there are also provided isolated mammalian DS-CAM proteins. These proteins are useful, for example, in neural prosthetic devices used in entubulation methods of repairing (regenerating) damaged or severed peripheral nerves (see, e.g., U.S. Patent No. 4,955,892, incorporated herein by reference). In addition, these proteins, or fragments thereof, are useful as immunogens for producing anti-DS-CAM antibodies, or in therapeutic compositions containing such proteins and/or antibodies. Invention DS-CAM proteins are also useful in bioassays to identify agonists and antagonists thereto. Also provided are transgenic non-human mammals that express the invention protein.

Antibodies that are immunoreactive with invention DS-CAM proteins are also provided. These antibodies are useful in diagnostic assays to determine levels of DS-CAM proteins present in a given sample, e.g., tissue samples, Western blots, and the like. The antibodies can also be used to purify DS-CAM proteins from crude cell extracts and the like. Moreover, these antibodies are considered therapeutically useful to counteract or supplement the biological effect of DS-CAMs in vivo.

Methods and diagnostic systems for determining the levels of DS-CAM protein in various tissue samples are also provided. These diagnostic methods can be used for monitoring the level of therapeutically administered DS-CAM protein or fragments thereof to facilitate the maintenance of therapeutically effective amounts. These diagnostic methods can also be used to diagnose physiological disorders that result from abnormal levels or abnormal structures of the DS-CAM protein.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

Figure 1 shows a physical map of the localization of the DS-CAM gene to a region between D21S345 and D21S347 on chromosome 21. The locations of BAC clones (starting with numbers) and PAC clones (starting with "P") are indicated by horizontal bars. An arrow head indicates a gap in the BAC and PAC contig. The location of the DS-CAM gene is indicated by a thick arrow.

Figure 2 shows the predicted amino acid sequence of the human DS-CAM1 protein corresponding to SEQ ID NO:2 and a schematic structure. **IG**: Immunoglobulin type-C2 domain. **FbN**: Fibronectin type III domain. The bold **C**s in the amino acid sequence indicates Cysteine residues forming disulfide bonds in the Ig-like type-C2 domains. The bold **NXS** and **NXT** in the amino acid sequence correspond to potential N-glycosylation sites.

Figure 3 shows a partial genomic structure of DS-CAM1 and a deletion contained in DS-CAM2 cDNA clones (clones pDS-CAM-18 and pDS-CAM-52). The deletion boundary sequence (GC-AG) suggests an unusual alternative splicing. The horizontal bar represents

genomic sequence containing exons of DS-CAM-42. Exons are indicated by open boxes. Exon-intron boundaries are defined by a comparison of the cDNA sequence of pDS-CAM-42 and genomic sequence determined from a BAC clone.

Figure 4 shows a schematic comparison of neuronal Ig superfamily members. Ig-like type C-2 domains, fibronectin type III domains and transmembrane domains are indicated. MAG: myelin-associated glycoprotein, N-CAM: neural cell adhesion molecule, BIG-1: brain-derived immunoglobulin (Ig) superfamily molecule-1, DCC: deleted in colorectal carcinoma.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

In accordance with the present invention, there are provided isolated nucleic acids, which encode novel mammalian members of the DS-CAM family of proteins, and fragments thereof. The phrase "DS-CAM" refers to substantially pure native DS-CAM protein, or recombinantly produced proteins, including naturally occurring allelic variants thereof encoded by mRNA generated by alternative splicing of a primary transcript, such as DS-CAM1 (SEQ ID NO:2) and DS-CAM2 (SEQ ID NO:11) disclosed herein, and further including fragments thereof which retain at least one native biological activity, such as immunogenicity. In one aspect, invention DS-CAM proteins, such as DS-CAM1, are cell-surface glycoproteins that are mobile in the plane of the membrane. Invention DS-CAM1 proteins contain extra- and intra-cellular domains that transduce information from the outside of the cell to the cytoplasm and the nucleus, thereby determining cell function. In another aspect, invention DS-CAM proteins, such as DS-CAM2, are non-membrane bound, soluble proteins.

In one aspect of the invention DS-CAM proteins are further characterized as comprising at least 7 Immunoglobulin-like (Ig-like) domains homologous to the immunoglobulin superfamily and 6 type III fibronectin repeats (see, e.g., Edelman and Crossin, "CELL ADHESION MOLECULES: Implications for a Molecular Histology", Ann. Rev. Biochem., **60**:155-190, 1991; and Walsh and Doherty, Curr. Opinion in Cell Biol., **5**:791-796, 1993; each of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety). In another aspect of the invention, DS-CAM proteins are those proteins comprising at least 8, preferably at least 9 Ig-like domains, with at least 10 Ig-like domains being especially preferred.

As used herein, "Ig-like domains", or grammatical variations thereof, refers to the well known repeats that are common among Cell Adhesion Molecules (CAMs)(see, e.g., Figure 1A at p. 158 of Edelman and Crossin, supra, 1991; and Walsh and Doherty, supra, 1993; each of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety).

The phrase "type III fibronectin repeats", "fibronectin repeats," or grammatical variations thereof, refers to the well known repeats that are common among Cell Adhesion Molecules (CAMs)(see, e.g., Figure 1A at p. 158 of Edelman and Crossin, supra, 1991; and Walsh and Doherty, supra, 1993; each of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety).

The invention DS-CAM proteins define a novel sub-class of the Ig (immunoglobulin) superfamily with highest homologies to the neural cell adhesion molecules including BIG-1 (Yoshihara et al., Neuron **13**:415-426, 1994), CAM-L1 (Moos et al., Nature **334**:701-703, 1988), DCC (Fearon et al., Science **247**:49-56, 1990), neogenin

(Lane et al., Genomics **35**:456-465, 1996), and contactin (Ranscht, J. Cell Bio. **107**:1561-1573, 1988) (Figure 4). It has been found that the structure of invention DS-CAM proteins is unique within the neural immunoglobulin superfamily, and is distinctive due to the number of Ig-like type C2 and fibronectin III domains (10 and 6 respectively) and from the interruption of the fourth and fifth fibronectin domains by a 10th C2 domain, the functional significance of which may be of interest. The novel structure of DS-CAM and its expression throughout the nervous system during differentiation suggest interesting roles for the neural CAM in neural development and function. The location of DS-CAM in a region critical for DS neurocognitive phenotypes provides a human model in which to test the significance of these roles for cognitive function.

The neural Ig-superfamily members play critical roles in neural development and function and have been implicated in cell migration and sorting, axon guidance and fasciculation, formation of neural connections, and in synaptic plasticity (Edelman and Crossin, supra, 1991; Walsh and Doherty, supra, 1993; Tessier-Lavigne et al., Science **274**:1123-1133, 1996; Shuster et al., Neuron **17**:641-654, 1996; Shuster et al., Neuron **17**:655-657, 1996). These activities are mediated by the homophilic or heterophilic binding properties of Ig-superfamily members (Mauro et al., J. Cell Bio. **119**:191-202, 1992 and Milev et al., J. Biol. Chem. **271**:15716-15723, 1996), the binding of Ig-superfamily proteins to extracellular matrix proteins (Grumet et al., Cell Adhesion Comm. **1**:177-190, 1993; Taira et al., Neuron **12** :861-872, 1994; and Zisch et al., J. Cell Bio. **119**:203-213, 1992), and the binding to smaller diffusible chemorepellents or chemoattractants, for example, DCC and netrin (Keino-Masu et al., Cell **87**:175-185, 1996).

The specificity of DS-CAM expression for the central nervous system and the timing of its expression to the period of neurite outgrowth in both the central and peripheral nervous systems, indicates a role for DS-CAM in early development and differentiation (Examples 4 and 5). Early in development when, with the exception of neural crest precursors, expression is clearly absent from regions that contain dividing neuroepithelial precursors such as the ependymal layer of the neural tube and the ventricular zone of the brain (Altman and Bayer, Atlas of Prenatal Rat Brain Development, CRC Press, Ann Arbor, MI, 1995). In the embryo, differentiated neurons express DS-CAM when they have finished migrating to their proper positions within the neuroepithelium, during neurite outgrowth.

Neural crest cells may express DS-CAM while they are migrating. At 15.5 and 16.5 days pc, most of the neural crest derived tissues have some expression, although not all have finished migration. The continued expression of DS-CAM in the myenteric plexus after 15.5-16.5 dpc is due to the neural crest cells that have stopped dividing, although others are in the cell cycle. Approximately 50% of myenteric ganglia neurons arise after birth and DS-CAM may be expressed later in this subset. At later stages, the data suggest that DS-CAM is down regulated in the neural crest derivatives such as the myenteric ganglia and ganglia of the pancreas. The DS-CAM expression in tissues derived from the neural crest is of interest with respect to the high level detected in the umbilical cord. The tissue surrounding the umbilical artery and vein is derived from the neural crest and functions in coordinating the cardiovascular changes occurring at birth. The expression detected in the fetal liver and branchial arches is also derived from neural crest related to the ductus venosus and ultimately

the ductus arteriosus and cardiac outflow tracts, respectively.

DS-CAM expression continues post-natally, in the differentiating regions of the newborn brain, such as, the septum and inferior colliculus, and in the adult in regions associated with plasticity, such as, the olfactory bulb and hippocampus. When combined with the evidence for involvement of the Ig superfamily in determining synaptic strength (Mayford et al., Science **256**:638-644, 1992), the continued expression supports a role for DS-CAM in remodeling, learning and memory. The expression pattern and the role of dendritic connections in cell body maintenance indicate that an increase in DS-CAM expression in DS brain is responsible in part for the abnormalities of dendritic structure and decreased intersections seen at four months post-natal in DS individuals.

Alternatively spliced variants of CAMs have distinct roles in different parts of the brain, as demonstrated for closely related Ig-superfamily members, such as, NCAM (Cunningham et al., Science **236**:799-806, 1987 and Figarella-Branger et al., J. Neuropathol. Exp. Neurol. **51**:12-23, 1992). The differential expression of alternatively spliced DS-CAM transcripts encoding DS-CAM1 (SEQ ID NO:2) and DS-CAM2 (SEQ ID NO:11) has likewise been observed in various parts of the human adult brain. For example, it has been found that DS-CAM clones encoding DS-CAM2 contain a small deletion relative to DS-CAM1, which deletion contains the transmembrane domain (Example 3 and Figure 3) and results in a stop codon 36 bp downstream. The results of RT-PCR (Example 5) indicated that all RNAs tested from various human tissues expressed both the DS-CAM1 and DS-CAM2 transcripts and that the PCR products generated the sequence and size predicted for the appropriate form. The proximal and

distal borders of the deletion are located within neighboring exons and reveal variant consensus splice site sequences (Jackson, Nuc. Acid Res. **19**:3795-3798, 1991) with further surrounding homology to the U1 spliceosome RNA.

From Northern analyses (Example 4) a minimum of three distinct transcripts are recognized by a probe for the transmembrane domain. From cDNA sequence analyses (Example 5) two forms of the DS-CAM protein are deduced, one that generates a transmembrane adhesion molecule and a second that is deleted for the transmembrane domain, thereby generating a molecule that is transported to the extracellular matrix. This mode of generating extracellular and membrane bound forms of CAMs is in surprising contrast to the GPI (glycosylphosphatidylinositol) linkage used by most CAMs, and would provide a way of generating longer range homophilic interactions between cells and the extracellular matrix, which may be significant for cell migration.

The DS-CAM gene was isolated (as described in the Examples hereinafter) by using the BAC contig on 21q22.2-q22.3 covering the region between D21S55 and MX1 (Hubert et al., Genomics **41**:218-226, 1997). The gene spans a minimum of 900 kb, estimated by summing the size of BACs and PACs that are non-overlapping and covered by the DS-CAM gene (Figure 1). The DS-CAM gene covers a gap in all physical maps of this region. From hybridization experiments indicating no signal of the complete cDNA to BAC 277G10 covering 210 kb, a 5' intron is at least this size, similar to the first intron of the DCC gene (Cho et al., Genomics **19**:525-531, 1994). Alternatively, other alternative transcripts can contain exons located in this BAC. The gene spans the boundary of bands

21q22.2 and q22.3, a Giemsa-dark and Giemsa-light band, respectively. The location of the gene for PEP19, a small 634 bp gene with large introns within the same band 21q22.2 (Cabin et al., Somat. Cell Mol. Genet. **22**:167-175, 1996) suggests a general structure of genes in G-bands having large introns.

The nucleic acid molecules described herein are useful for producing invention DS-CAM proteins, when such nucleic acids are incorporated into a variety of protein expression systems known to those of skill in the art. In addition, such nucleic acid molecules or fragments thereof can be labeled with a readily detectable substituent and used as hybridization probes for assaying for the presence and/or amount of a DS-CAM gene or mRNA transcript in a given sample. The nucleic acid molecules described herein, and fragments thereof, are also useful as primers and/or templates in a PCR reaction for amplifying genes encoding the invention protein described herein.

The term "nucleic acid" (also referred to as polynucleotides) encompasses ribonucleic acid (RNA) or deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA), probes, oligonucleotides, and primers. DNA can be either complementary DNA (cDNA) or genomic DNA, e.g. a gene encoding a DS-CAM protein. One means of isolating a nucleic acid encoding a DS-CAM polypeptide is to probe a mammalian genomic library with a natural or artificially designed DNA probe using methods well known in the art. DNA probes derived from the DS-CAM gene are particularly useful for this purpose. DNA and cDNA molecules that encode DS-CAM polypeptides can be used to obtain complementary genomic DNA, cDNA or RNA from mammalian (e.g., human, mouse, rat, rabbit, pig, and the like), or other animal sources, or to isolate related cDNA or genomic clones by the screening of cDNA or genomic libraries, by methods described in more detail

below. Examples of nucleic acids are RNA, cDNA, or isolated genomic DNA encoding a DS-CAM polypeptide. Such nucleic acids may include, but are not limited to, nucleic acids having substantially the same nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:10, or at least nucleotides 453-6185 set forth in SEQ ID NO:1, or nucleotides 453-5168 set forth in SEQ ID NO:10.

Use of the terms "isolated" and/or "purified" in the present specification and claims as a modifier of DNA, RNA, polypeptides or proteins means that the DNA, RNA, polypeptides or proteins so designated have been produced in such form by the hand of man, and thus are separated from their native in vivo cellular environment. As a result of this human intervention, the recombinant DNAs, RNAs, polypeptides and proteins of the invention are useful in ways described herein that the DNAs, RNAs, polypeptides or proteins as they naturally occur are not.

As used herein, "mammalian" refers to the variety of species from which the invention DS-CAM protein is derived, e.g., human, rat, mouse, rabbit, monkey, baboon, bovine, porcine, ovine, canine, feline, and the like. A preferred DS-CAM protein herein, is human DS-CAM.

In one embodiment of the present invention, cDNAs encoding the invention DS-CAM proteins disclosed herein include substantially the same nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:9, or SEQ ID NO:10. Preferred cDNA molecules encoding the invention proteins include the same nucleotide sequence as nucleotides 453-6185 set forth in SEQ ID NO:1, or nucleotides 453-5168 set forth in SEQ ID NO:10.

As employed herein, the term "substantially the same nucleotide sequence" refers to DNA having sufficient identity to the reference polynucleotide, such that it will hybridize to the reference nucleotide under moderately stringent hybridization conditions. In one embodiment, DNA having substantially the same nucleotide sequence as the reference nucleotide sequence encodes substantially the same amino acid sequence as that set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:11, or the DS-CAM coding region of SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:8 or SEQ ID NO:9, or a larger amino acid sequence including SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:11, or the DS-CAM coding region of SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:8 or SEQ ID NO:9. In another embodiment, DNA having "substantially the same nucleotide sequence" as the reference nucleotide sequence has at least 60% identity with respect to the reference nucleotide sequence. DNA having at least 70%, more preferably at least 90%, yet more preferably at least 95%, identity to the reference nucleotide sequence is preferred.

This invention also encompasses nucleic acids which differ from the nucleic acids shown in SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:10 but which have the same phenotype. Phenotypically similar nucleic acids are also referred to as "functionally equivalent nucleic acids". As used herein, the phrase "functionally equivalent nucleic acids" encompasses nucleic acids characterized by slight and non-consequential sequence variations that will function in substantially the same manner to produce the same protein product(s) as the nucleic acids disclosed herein. In particular, functionally equivalent nucleic acids encode polypeptides that are the same as those disclosed herein or that have conservative amino acid variations, or that encode larger polypeptides that includes SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:11, or the DS-CAM coding region of SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:8 or SEQ ID NO:9. For example, conservative

variations include substitution of a non-polar residue with another non-polar residue, or substitution of a charged residue with a similarly charged residue. These variations include those recognized by skilled artisans as those that do not substantially alter the tertiary structure of the protein.

Further provided are nucleic acids encoding DS-CAM polypeptides that, by virtue of the degeneracy of the genetic code, do not necessarily hybridize to the invention nucleic acids under specified hybridization conditions. Preferred nucleic acids encoding the invention polypeptides are comprised of nucleotides that encode substantially the same amino acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:11, or the DS-CAM coding region of SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:8 or SEQ ID NO:9.

Thus, an exemplary nucleic acid encoding an invention DS-CAM protein may be selected from:

(a) DNA encoding the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:11, or the DS-CAM coding region of SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:8 or SEQ ID NO:9,

(b) DNA that hybridizes to the DNA of (a) under moderately stringent conditions, wherein said DNA encodes biologically active DS-CAM, or

(c) DNA degenerate with respect to either (a) or (b) above, wherein said DNA encodes biologically active DS-CAM.

Hybridization refers to the binding of complementary strands of nucleic acid (i.e., sense:antisense strands or probe:target-DNA) to each other through hydrogen bonds, similar to the bonds that naturally occur in chromosomal DNA. Stringency levels used to hybridize a given probe with target-DNA can be readily varied by those of skill in the art.

The phrase "stringent hybridization" is used herein to refer to conditions under which polynucleic acid hybrids are stable. As known to those of skill in the art, the stability of hybrids is reflected in the melting temperature (T_m) of the hybrids. In general, the stability of a hybrid is a function of sodium ion concentration and temperature. Typically, the hybridization reaction is performed under conditions of lower stringency, followed by washes of varying, but higher, stringency. Reference to hybridization stringency relates to such washing conditions.

As used herein, the phrase "moderately stringent hybridization" refers to conditions that permit target-DNA to bind a complementary nucleic acid that has about 60% identity, preferably about 75% identity, more preferably about 85% identity to the target DNA; with greater than about 90% identity to target-DNA being especially preferred. Preferably, moderately stringent conditions are conditions equivalent to hybridization in 50% formamide, 5X Denhardt's solution, 5X SSPE, 0.2% SDS at 42°C, followed by washing in 0.2X SSPE, 0.2% SDS, at 65°C.

The phrase "high stringency hybridization" refers to conditions that permit hybridization of only those nucleic acid sequences that form stable hybrids in 0.018M NaCl at 65°C (i.e., if a hybrid is not stable in 0.018M NaCl at 65°C, it will not be stable under high stringency conditions, as contemplated herein). High stringency conditions can be provided, for example, by hybridization in 50% formamide, 5X Denhardt's solution, 5X SSPE, 0.2% SDS at 42°C, followed by washing in 0.1X SSPE, and 0.1% SDS at 65°C.

The phrase "low stringency hybridization" refers to conditions equivalent to hybridization in 10%

formamide, 5X Denhardt's solution, 6X SSPE, 0.2% SDS at 42°C, followed by washing in 1X SSPE, 0.2% SDS, at 50°C. Denhardt's solution and SSPE (see, e.g., Sambrook et al., Molecular Cloning, A Laboratory Manual, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, 1989) are well known to those of skill in the art as are other suitable hybridization buffers.

As used herein, the term "degenerate" refers to codons that differ in at least one nucleotide from a reference nucleic acid, e.g., SEQ ID NO:1, but encode the same amino acids as the reference nucleic acid. For example, codons specified by the triplets "UCU", "UCC", "UCA", and "UCG" are degenerate with respect to each other since all four of these codons encode the amino acid serine.

Preferred nucleic acids encoding the invention polypeptide(s) hybridize under moderately stringent, preferably high stringency, conditions to substantially the entire sequence, or in certain embodiments substantial portions (i.e., typically at least 15-30 nucleotides) of the nucleic acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:9 or SEQ ID NO:10.

The invention nucleic acids can be produced by a variety of methods well-known in the art, e.g., the methods described herein, employing PCR amplification using oligonucleotide primers from various regions of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:10, and the like.

In accordance with a further embodiment of the present invention, optionally labeled DS-CAM-encoding cDNAs, or fragments thereof, can be employed to probe library(ies) (e.g., cDNA, genomic, and the like) for

additional nucleic acid sequences encoding novel mammalian DS-CAM proteins. As described in Example 3, construction of mammalian cDNA libraries, preferably a human trisomy 21 fetal brain cDNA library, is well-known in the art. Screening of such a cDNA library is initially carried out under low-stringency conditions, which comprise a temperature of less than about 42°C, a formamide concentration of less than about 50%, and a moderate to low salt concentration.

Presently preferred probe-based screening conditions comprise a temperature of about 37°C, a formamide concentration of about 20%, and a salt concentration of about 5X standard saline citrate (SSC; 20X SSC contains 3M sodium chloride, 0.3M sodium citrate, pH 7.0). Such conditions will allow the identification of sequences which have a substantial degree of similarity with the probe sequence, without requiring perfect homology. The phrase "substantial similarity" refers to sequences which share at least 50% homology. Preferably, hybridization conditions will be selected which allow the identification of sequences having at least 70% homology with the probe, while discriminating against sequences which have a lower degree of homology with the probe. As a result, nucleic acids having substantially the same nucleotide sequence as nucleotides 453-6185 set forth in SEQ ID NO:1, or nucleotides 453-5168 set forth in SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:8, or SEQ ID NO:9 are obtained.

As used herein, a nucleic acid "probe" is single-stranded DNA or RNA, or analogs thereof, that has a sequence of nucleotides that includes at least 14, at least 20, at least 50, at least 100, at least 200, at least 300, at least 400, or at least 500 contiguous bases that are the same as (or the complement of) any contiguous bases set forth in any of SEQ ID NO:1,

SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:9 or SEQ ID NO:10. Preferred regions from which to construct probes include 5' and/or 3' coding regions of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:9 or SEQ ID NO:10. In addition, the entire cDNA encoding region of an invention DS-CAM protein, or the entire sequence corresponding to SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:9 or SEQ ID NO:10, may be used as a probe. Probes may be labeled by methods well-known in the art, as described hereinafter, and used in various diagnostic kits.

As used herein, the terms "label" and "indicating means" in their various grammatical forms refer to single atoms and molecules that are either directly or indirectly involved in the production of a detectable signal. Any label or indicating means can be linked to invention nucleic acid probes, expressed proteins, polypeptide fragments, or antibody molecules. These atoms or molecules can be used alone or in conjunction with additional reagents. Such labels are themselves well-known in clinical diagnostic chemistry.

The labeling means can be a fluorescent labeling agent that chemically binds to antibodies or antigens without denaturation to form a fluorochrome (dye) that is a useful immunofluorescent tracer. A description of immunofluorescent analytic techniques is found in DeLuca, "Immunofluorescence Analysis", in Antibody As a Tool, Marchalonis et al., eds., John Wiley & Sons, Ltd., pp. 189-231, 1982, which is incorporated herein by reference.

In one embodiment, the indicating group is an enzyme, such as horseradish peroxidase (HRP), glucose oxidase, and the like. In another embodiment, radioactive elements are employed labeling agents. The linking of a label to a substrate, i.e., labeling of

nucleic acid probes, antibodies, polypeptides, and proteins, is well known in the art. For instance, an invention antibody can be labeled by metabolic incorporation of radiolabeled amino acids provided in the culture medium. See, for example, Galfre et al., Meth. Enzymol. **73**:3-46, 1981. Conventional means of protein conjugation or coupling by activated functional groups are particularly applicable. See, for example, Aurameas et al., Scand. J. Immunol. **8(7)**:7-23, 1978; Rodwell et al., Biotech. **3**:889-894, 1984; and U.S. Patent No. 4,493,795.

In accordance with another embodiment of the present invention, there are provided isolated mammalian DS-CAM proteins (preferably human), polypeptides, and fragments thereof encoded by invention nucleic acid. Preferably, DS-CAM proteins referred to herein, are those polypeptides specifically recognized by an antibody that also specifically recognizes a DS-CAM protein including the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:11, or the DS-CAM coding region of SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:8 or SEQ ID NO:9. Invention isolated DS-CAM proteins are free of cellular components and/or contaminants normally associated with a native in vivo environment.

The invention DS-CAM proteins are further characterized as being primarily expressed in fetal brain and not expressed in fetal lung or fetal liver. For example, the results of Northern analysis (described in Example 4) using human fetal tissues showed that 8.5 kb and 7.6 kb transcripts are expressed only in fetal brain and not expressed in fetal lung, fetal liver and fetal kidney. Northern blot analyses of adult tissues revealed differential expression of three alternative transcripts of 9.7 kb, 8.5 kb and 7.6 kb in different substructures of the brain. The 9.7 kb transcript is highly expressed in the substantia nigra, moderately

expressed in the amygdala and hippocampus, and less expressed in the whole brain. A similar pattern is observed by using a PCR product spanning the 191 bp deletion found in DS-CAM-18 and DS-CAM-52. The placenta shows faint bands, and the sizes are smaller than those in brain. In skeletal muscle, a faint band (6.5 kb) is detected.

The results of RT-PCR (Example 5) demonstrated expression of human DS-CAM mRNA in fetal and adult brain, in fetal kidney, as well as in a breast carcinoma cell line mRNA. Thus, splice variant cDNA transcripts encoding a DS-CAM family of proteins are clearly contemplated by the present invention.

The region of chromosome locus 21q22.2 from which DS-CAM is derived is part of the candidate region for holoprosencephaly type I (HPE1). In addition, some patients with this region hemizygously deleted show abnormalities of the corpus callosum and schizencephaly. Therefore, DS-CAM is contemplated as the gene, which when defective, deleted or present as a duplication, is responsible for holoprosencephaly, agenesis of the corpus callosum and/or structural defects of the brain. In addition, DS-CAM may also be responsible for several phenotypes of Down Syndrome including mental retardation as well as, more specifically, the abnormal dendritic structure observed in Down Syndrome. Additional roles for DS-CAM were further evaluated by database homology searches using BLAST X/N and TIGR database analyses. Results of these searches indicate that DS-CAM shows moderate homology to N-CAM-1 (Cunningham et al., Science, **236**:799-806, 1987) and to DCC (Fearon et al., Science, **247**:49-56, 1990).

Presently preferred DS-CAM proteins of the invention include amino acid sequences that are

substantially the same as the protein sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:11, or the DS-CAM coding region of SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:8 or SEQ ID NO:9, as well as biologically active, modified forms thereof. Those of skill in the art will recognize that numerous residues of the above-described sequences can be substituted with other, chemically, sterically and/or electronically similar residues without substantially altering the biological activity of the resulting receptor species. In addition, larger or smaller polypeptide sequences containing substantially the same sequence as SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:11, or the DS-CAM coding region of SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:8 or SEQ ID NO:9, therein (e.g., splice variants) are contemplated.

As employed herein, the term "substantially the same amino acid sequence" refers to amino acid sequences having at least about 50%, preferably at least about 60%, more preferably at least about 70% identity with respect to the reference amino acid sequence, and retaining comparable functional and biological activity characteristic of the protein defined by the reference amino acid sequence. In another embodiment of the invention, preferred invention proteins having "substantially the same amino acid sequence" will have at least about 80%, more preferably 90% amino acid identity with respect to the reference amino acid sequence; with greater than about 95% amino acid sequence identity being especially preferred. It is recognized, however, that polypeptides (or nucleic acids referred to hereinbefore) containing less than the described levels of sequence identity arising as splice variants or that are modified by conservative amino acid substitutions, or by substitution of degenerate codons are also encompassed within the scope of the present invention.

The term "biologically active" or "functional", when used herein as a modifier of invention DS-CAM protein(s), or polypeptide fragment thereof, refers to a polypeptide that exhibits functional characteristics similar to DS-CAM. For example, one biological activity of DS-CAM is the ability to act as an immunogen for the production of polyclonal and monoclonal antibodies that bind specifically to DS-CAM. Thus, an invention nucleic acid encoding DS-CAM will encode a polypeptide specifically recognized by an antibody that also specifically recognizes the DS-CAM protein including the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:11, or the DS-CAM coding region of SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:8 or SEQ ID NO:9. Such activity may be assayed by any method known to those of skill in the art. For example, a test-polypeptide encoded by a DS-CAM cDNA can be used to produce antibodies, which are then assayed for their ability to bind to the protein including the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:11, or the DS-CAM coding region of SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:8 or SEQ ID NO:9. If the antibody binds to the test-polypeptide and the protein including the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:11, or the DS-CAM coding region of SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:8 or SEQ ID NO:9 with substantially the same affinity, then the polypeptide possesses the requisite biological activity.

The invention DS-CAM proteins can be isolated by a variety of methods well-known in the art, e.g., the methods described herein, the recombinant expression systems described herein, precipitation, gel filtration, ion-exchange, reverse-phase and affinity chromatography, and the like. Other well-known methods are described in Deutscher et al., Guide to Protein Purification: Methods in Enzymology **182** (Academic Press, 1990), which is incorporated herein by reference. Alternatively, the isolated polypeptides of the present invention can be

obtained using well-known recombinant methods as described, for example, in Sambrook et al., supra., 1989).

An example of the means for preparing the invention polypeptide(s) is to express nucleic acids encoding the DS-CAM in a suitable host cell, such as a bacterial cell, a yeast cell, an amphibian cell (i.e., oocyte), or a mammalian cell, using methods well known in the art, and recovering the expressed polypeptide, again using well-known methods. Invention polypeptides can be isolated directly from cells that have been transformed with expression vectors as described below herein. The invention polypeptide, biologically active fragments, and functional equivalents thereof can also be produced by chemical synthesis. For example, synthetic polypeptides can be produced using Applied Biosystems, Inc. Model 430A or 431A automatic peptide synthesizer (Foster City, CA) employing the chemistry provided by the manufacturer.

The present invention also provides compositions containing an acceptable carrier and any of an isolated, purified DS-CAM polypeptide, an active fragment thereof, or a purified, mature protein and active fragments thereof, alone or in combination with each other. These polypeptides or proteins can be recombinantly derived, chemically synthesized or purified from native sources. As used herein, the term "acceptable carrier" encompasses any of the standard pharmaceutical carriers, such as phosphate buffered saline solution, water and emulsions such as an oil/water or water/oil emulsion, and various types of wetting agents.

Also provided are antisense oligonucleotides having a sequence capable of binding specifically with any portion of an mRNA that encodes DS-CAM polypeptides

so as to prevent translation of the mRNA. The antisense oligonucleotide may have a sequence capable of binding specifically with any portion of the sequence of the cDNA encoding DS-CAM polypeptides. As used herein, the phrase "binding specifically" encompasses the ability of a nucleic acid sequence to recognize a complementary nucleic acid sequence and to form double-helical segments therewith via the formation of hydrogen bonds between the complementary base pairs. An example of an antisense oligonucleotide is an antisense oligonucleotide comprising chemical analogs of nucleotides.

Compositions comprising an amount of the antisense oligonucleotide, described above, effective to reduce expression of DS-CAM polypeptides by passing through a cell membrane and binding specifically with mRNA encoding DS-CAM polypeptides so as to prevent translation and an acceptable hydrophobic carrier capable of passing through a cell membrane are also provided herein. Suitable hydrophobic carriers are described, for example, in U.S. Patent Nos. 5,334,761; 4,889,953; 4,897,355, and the like. The acceptable hydrophobic carrier capable of passing through cell membranes may also comprise a structure which binds to a receptor specific for a selected cell type and is thereby taken up by cells of the selected cell type. The structure may be part of a protein known to bind to a cell-type specific receptor.

Antisense oligonucleotide compositions are useful to inhibit translation of mRNA encoding invention polypeptides. Synthetic oligonucleotides, or other antisense chemical structures are designed to bind to mRNA encoding DS-CAM polypeptides and inhibit translation of mRNA and are useful as compositions to inhibit expression of DS-CAM associated genes in a tissue sample or in a subject.

In accordance with another embodiment of the invention, kits for detecting mutations, duplications, deletions, rearrangements and aneuploidies in chromosome 21 at locus q22.2 comprising at least one invention probe or antisense nucleotide.

The present invention provides means to modulate levels of expression of DS-CAM polypeptides by employing synthetic antisense oligonucleotide compositions (hereinafter SAOC) which inhibit translation of mRNA encoding these polypeptides. Synthetic oligonucleotides, or other antisense chemical structures designed to recognize and selectively bind to mRNA, are constructed to be complementary to portions of the DS-CAM coding strand or nucleotide sequences shown in SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:9 or SEQ ID NO:10. The SAOC is designed to be stable in the blood stream for administration to a subject by injection, or in laboratory cell culture conditions. The SAOC is designed to be capable of passing through the cell membrane in order to enter the cytoplasm of the cell by virtue of physical and chemical properties of the SAOC which render it capable of passing through cell membranes, for example, by designing small, hydrophobic SAOC chemical structures, or by virtue of specific transport systems in the cell which recognize and transport the SAOC into the cell. In addition, the SAOC can be designed for administration only to certain selected cell populations by targeting the SAOC to be recognized by specific cellular uptake mechanisms which bind and take up the SAOC only within select cell populations.

For example, the SAOC may be designed to bind to a receptor found only in a certain cell type, as discussed supra. The SAOC is also designed to recognize and selectively bind to target mRNA sequence, which may

correspond to a sequence contained within the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:9 or SEQ ID NO:10. The SAOC is designed to inactivate target mRNA sequence by either binding thereto and inducing degradation of the mRNA by, for example, RNase I digestion, or inhibiting translation of mRNA target sequence by interfering with the binding of translation-regulating factors or ribosomes, or inclusion of other chemical structures, such as ribozyme sequences or reactive chemical groups which either degrade or chemically modify the target mRNA. SAOCs have been shown to be capable of such properties when directed against mRNA targets (see Cohen et al., TIBS **10**:435, 1989 and Weintraub, Sci. American January 1990, pp.40; both incorporated herein by reference).

In accordance with yet another embodiment of the present invention, there is provided a method for the recombinant production of invention DS-CAM protein(s) by expressing the above-described nucleic acid sequences in suitable host cells. Recombinant DNA expression systems that are suitable to produce DS-CAM proteins described herein are well-known in the art. For example, the above-described nucleotide sequences can be incorporated into vectors for further manipulation. As used herein, vector (or plasmid) refers to discrete elements that are used to introduce heterologous DNA into cells for either expression or replication thereof.

Suitable expression vectors are well-known in the art, and include vectors capable of expressing DNA operatively linked to a regulatory sequence, such as a promoter region that is capable of regulating expression of such DNA. Thus, an expression vector refers to a recombinant DNA or RNA construct, such as a plasmid, a phage, recombinant virus or other vector that, upon introduction into an appropriate host cell, results in

expression of the inserted DNA. Appropriate expression vectors are well known to those of skill in the art and include those that are replicable in eukaryotic cells and/or prokaryotic cells and those that remain episomal or those which integrate into the host cell genome.

As used herein, a promoter region refers to a segment of DNA that controls transcription of DNA to which it is operatively linked. The promoter region includes specific sequences that are sufficient for RNA polymerase recognition, binding and transcription initiation. In addition, the promoter region includes sequences that modulate this recognition, binding and transcription initiation activity of RNA polymerase. These sequences may be *cis* acting or may be responsive to *trans* acting factors. Promoters, depending upon the nature of the regulation, may be constitutive or regulated. Exemplary promoters contemplated for use in the practice of the present invention include the SV40 early promoter, the cytomegalovirus (CMV) promoter, the mouse mammary tumor virus (MMTV) steroid-inducible promoter, Moloney murine leukemia virus (MMLV) promoter, and the like.

As used herein, the term "operatively linked" refers to the functional relationship of DNA with regulatory and effector nucleotide sequences, such as promoters, enhancers, transcriptional and translational stop sites, and other signal sequences. For example, operative linkage of DNA to a promoter refers to the physical and functional relationship between the DNA and the promoter such that the transcription of such DNA is initiated from the promoter by an RNA polymerase that specifically recognizes, binds to and transcribes the DNA.

As used herein, expression refers to the process well-known to those of skill in the art by which polynucleic acids are transcribed into mRNA and translated into peptides or proteins and, optionally thereafter, modified post-translationally. If the invention nucleic acid is derived from genomic DNA, expression may, if an appropriate eukaryotic host cell or organism is selected, include splicing of the mRNA.

Prokaryotic transformation vectors are well-known in the art and include pBluescript and phage Lambda ZAP vectors (STRATAGENE, San Diego, CA), and the like. Other suitable vectors and promoters are disclosed in detail in U.S. Patent No. 4,798,885, issued January 17, 1989, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

Other suitable vectors for transformation of *E. coli* cells include the pET expression vectors (Novagen, see U.S patent 4,952,496), e.g., pET11a, which contains the T7 promoter, T7 terminator, the inducible *E. coli* lac operator, and the lac repressor gene; and pET 12a-c, which contain the T7 promoter, T7 terminator, and the *E. coli* ompT secretion signal. Another suitable vector is the pIN-IIIompA2 (see Duffaud et al., Meth. in Enzymology, **153**:492-507, 1987), which contains the lpp promoter, the lacUV5 promoter operator, the ompA secretion signal, and the lac repressor gene.

Exemplary, eukaryotic transformation vectors, include the cloned bovine papilloma virus genome, the cloned genomes of the murine retroviruses, and eukaryotic cassettes, such as the pSV-2 gpt system (described by Mulligan and Berg, Nature **277**:108-114, 1979) the Okayama-Berg cloning system (Mol. Cell Biol. **2**:161-170, 1982), and the expression cloning vector described by

Genetics Institute (Science **228**:810-815, 1985), are available which provide substantial assurance of at least some expression of the protein of interest in the transformed eukaryotic cell line.

Particularly preferred base vectors which contain regulatory elements that can be linked to the invention DS-CAM-encoding DNAs for transfection of mammalian cells are cytomegalovirus (CMV) promoter-based vectors such as pcDNA1 (Invitrogen, San Diego, CA), MMTV promoter-based vectors such as pMAMNeo (Clontech, Palo Alto, CA) and pMSG (Pharmacia, Piscataway, NJ), and SV40 promoter-based vectors such as pSVβ (Clontech, Palo Alto, CA).

In accordance with another embodiment of the present invention, there are provided "recombinant cells" containing the nucleic acid molecules (i.e., DNA or mRNA) of the present invention. Methods of transforming suitable host cells, preferably bacterial cells, and more preferably *E. coli* cells, as well as methods applicable for culturing said cells containing a gene encoding a heterologous protein, are generally known in the art. See, for example, Sambrook et al., supra, 1989.

Exemplary methods of transformation include, e.g., transformation employing plasmids, viral, or bacterial phage vectors, transfection, electroporation, lipofection, and the like. The heterologous DNA can optionally include sequences which allow for its extrachromosomal maintenance, or said heterologous DNA can be caused to integrate into the genome of the host (as an alternative means to ensure stable maintenance in the host).

Host organisms contemplated for use in the practice of the present invention include those organisms

in which recombinant production of heterologous proteins has been carried out. Exemplary cells for introducing DNA include cells of mammalian origin (e.g., COS cells, mouse L cells, Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) cells, human embryonic kidney (HEK) cells, African green monkey cells and other such cells known to those of skill in the art), amphibian cells (e.g., *Xenopus laevis* oöcytes), yeast cells (e.g., *Saccharomyces cerevisiae, Candida tropicalis, Hansenula polymorpha* and *P. pastoris*; see, e.g., U.S. Patent Nos. 4,882,279, 4,837,148, 4,929,555 and 4,855,231), bacteria (e.g., *E. coli*), and the like.

In one embodiment, nucleic acids encoding the invention DS-CAM proteins can be delivered into mammalian cells, either in vivo or in vitro using suitable viral vectors well-known in the art. Suitable retroviral vectors, designed specifically for in vivo "gene therapy" methods, are described, for example, in WIPO publications WO 9205266 and WO 9214829, which provide a description of methods for efficiently introducing nucleic acids into human cells in vivo. In addition, where it is desirable to limit or reduce the in vivo expression of the invention DS-CAM, the introduction of the antisense strand of the invention nucleic acid is contemplated.

In accordance with yet another embodiment of the present invention, there are provided anti-DS-CAM antibodies having specific reactivity with DS-CAM polypeptides of the present invention. Active fragments of antibodies are encompassed within the definition of "antibody". Invention antibodies can be produced by methods known in the art using invention polypeptides, proteins or portions thereof as antigens. For example, polyclonal and monoclonal antibodies can be produced by methods well known in the art, as described, for example, in Harlow and Lane, Antibodies: A Laboratory Manual (Cold

Spring Harbor Laboratory, 1988), which is incorporated herein by reference. Invention polypeptides can be used as immunogens in generating such antibodies. Alternatively, synthetic peptides can be prepared (using commercially available synthesizers) and used as immunogens. Amino acid sequences can be analyzed by methods well known in the art to determine whether they encode hydrophobic or hydrophilic domains of the corresponding polypeptide. Altered antibodies such as chimeric, humanized, CDR-grafted or bifunctional antibodies can also be produced by methods well known in the art. Such antibodies can also be produced by hybridoma, chemical synthesis or recombinant methods described, for example, in Sambrook et al., supra, 1989; and Harlow and Lane, supra, 1988. Both anti-peptide and anti-fusion protein antibodies can be used. (see, for example, Bahouth et al., Trends Pharmacol. Sci. **12**:338 1991; Ausubel et al., Current Protocols in Molecular Biology (John Wiley and Sons, NY 1989) which are incorporated herein by reference).

Antibody so produced can be used, inter alia, in diagnostic methods and systems to detect the level of DS-CAM protein present in a mammalian, preferably human, body sample, such as tissue or vascular fluid. Such antibodies can also be used for the immunoaffinity or affinity chromatography purification of the invention DS-CAM protein. In addition, methods are contemplated herein for detecting the presence of DS-CAM polypeptides on the surface of a cell comprising contacting the cell with an antibody that specifically binds to DS-CAM polypeptides, under conditions permitting binding of the antibody to the polypeptides, detecting the presence of the antibody bound to the cell, and thereby detecting the presence of invention polypeptides on the surface of the cell. With respect to the detection of such

polypeptides, the antibodies can be used for in vitro diagnostic or in vivo imaging methods.

Immunological procedures useful for in vitro detection of target DS-CAM polypeptides in a sample include immunoassays that employ a detectable antibody. Such immunoassays include, for example, ELISA, Pandex microfluorimetric assay, agglutination assays, flow cytometry, serum diagnostic assays and immunohistochemical staining procedures which are well known in the art. An antibody can be made detectable by various means well known in the art. For example, a detectable marker can be directly or indirectly attached to the antibody. Useful markers include, for example, radionucleotides, enzymes, fluorogens, chromogens and chemiluminescent labels.

Invention anti-DS-CAM antibodies are contemplated for use herein to modulate the activity of the DS-CAM polypeptide in living animals, in humans, or in biological tissues or fluids isolated therefrom. Accordingly, compositions comprising a carrier and an amount of an antibody having specificity for DS-CAM polypeptides effective to block naturally occurring ligands or other DS-CAM-binding proteins from binding to invention DS-CAM polypeptides are contemplated herein. For example, a monoclonal antibody directed to an epitope of DS-CAM polypeptide molecules present on the surface of a cell and having an amino acid sequence substantially the same as an amino acid sequence for a cell surface epitope of a DS-CAM polypeptide including the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:11, or the DS-CAM coding region of SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:8 or SEQ ID NO:9, can be useful for this purpose.

The present invention further provides transgenic non-human mammals that are capable of

expressing exogenous nucleic acids encoding DS-CAM polypeptides. As employed herein, the phrase "exogenous nucleic acid" refers to nucleic acid sequence which is not native to the host, or which is present in the host in other than its native environment (e.g., as part of a genetically engineered DNA construct).

Also provided are transgenic non-human mammals capable of expressing nucleic acids encoding DS-CAM polypeptides so mutated as to be incapable of normal activity, i.e., do not express native DS-CAM. The present invention also provides transgenic non-human mammals having a genome comprising antisense nucleic acids complementary to nucleic acids encoding DS-CAM polypeptides, placed so as to be transcribed into antisense mRNA complementary to mRNA encoding DS-CAM polypeptides, which hybridizes to the mRNA and, thereby, reduces the translation thereof. The nucleic acid may additionally comprise an inducible promoter and/or tissue specific regulatory elements, so that expression can be induced, or restricted to specific cell types. Examples of nucleic acids are DNA or cDNA having a coding sequence substantially the same as the coding sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1. An example of a non-human transgenic mammal is a transgenic mouse. Examples of tissue specificity-determining elements are the metallothionein promoter and the L7 promoter.

Animal model systems which elucidate the physiological and behavioral roles of DS-CAM polypeptides are also provided, and are produced by creating transgenic animals in which the expression of the DS-CAM polypeptide is altered using a variety of techniques. Examples of such techniques include the insertion of normal or mutant versions of nucleic acids encoding a DS-CAM polypeptide by microinjection, retroviral infection or other means well known to those skilled in

the art, into appropriate fertilized embryos to produce a transgenic animal. See, for example, Hogan et al., Manipulating the Mouse Embryo: A Laboratory Manual (Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, 1986).

Also contemplated herein, is the use of homologous recombination of mutant or normal versions of DS-CAM genes with the native gene locus in transgenic animals, to alter the regulation of expression or the structure of DS-CAM polypeptides (see, Capecchi et al., Science **244**:1288, 1989; Zimmer et al., Nature **338**:150, 1989; which are incorporated herein by reference). Homologous recombination techniques are well known in the art. Homologous recombination replaces the native (endogenous) gene with a recombinant or mutated gene to produce an animal that cannot express native (endogenous) protein but can express, for example, a mutated protein which results in altered expression of DS-CAM polypeptides.

In contrast to homologous recombination, microinjection adds genes to the host genome, without removing host genes. Microinjection can produce a transgenic animal that is capable of expressing both endogenous and exogenous DS-CAM protein. Inducible promoters can be linked to the coding region of nucleic acids to provide a means to regulate expression of the transgene. Tissue specific regulatory elements can be linked to the coding region to permit tissue-specific expression of the transgene. Transgenic animal model systems are useful for in vivo screening of compounds for identification of specific ligands, i.e., agonists and antagonists, which activate or inhibit protein responses.

Invention nucleic acids, oligonucleotides (including antisense), vectors containing same, transformed host cells, polypeptides and combinations

thereof, as well as antibodies of the present invention, can be used to screen compounds in vitro to determine whether a compound functions as a potential agonist or antagonist to invention polypeptides. These in vitro screening assays provide information regarding the function and activity of invention polypeptides, which can lead to the identification and design of compounds that are capable of specific interaction with one or more types of polypeptides, peptides or proteins.

In accordance with still another embodiment of the present invention, there is provided a method for identifying compounds which bind to DS-CAM polypeptides. The invention proteins may be employed in a competitive binding assay. Such an assay can accommodate the rapid screening of a large number of compounds to determine which compounds, if any, are capable of binding to DS-CAM proteins. Subsequently, more detailed assays can be carried out with those compounds found to bind, to further determine whether such compounds act as modulators, agonists or antagonists of invention proteins.

Another application of the binding assay of the invention is the assay of test samples (e.g., biological fluids) for the presence or absence of DS-CAM. Thus, for example, serum from a patient displaying symptoms thought to be related to over- or under-production of DS-CAM can be assayed to determine if the observed symptoms are indeed caused by over- or under-production of DS-CAM.

In another embodiment of the invention, there is provided a bioassay for identifying compounds which modulate the activity of invention DS-CAM polypeptides. According to this method, invention polypeptides are contacted with an "unknown" or test substance (in the presence of a reporter gene construct when antagonist

activity is tested), the activity of the polypeptide is monitored subsequent to the contact with the "unknown" or test substance, and those substances which cause the reporter gene construct to be expressed are identified as functional ligands for DS-CAM polypeptides.

In accordance with another embodiment of the present invention, transformed host cells that recombinantly express invention polypeptides can be contacted with a test compound, and the modulating effect(s) thereof can then be evaluated by comparing the DS-CAM-mediated response (e.g., via reporter gene expression) in the presence and absence of test compound, or by comparing the response of test cells or control cells (i.e., cells that do not express DS-CAM polypeptides), to the presence of the compound.

As used herein, a compound or a signal that "modulates the activity" of invention polypeptides refers to a compound or a signal that alters the activity of DS-CAM polypeptides so that the activity of the invention polypeptide is different in the presence of the compound or signal than in the absence of the compound or signal. In particular, such compounds or signals include agonists and antagonists. An agonist encompasses a compound or a signal that activates DS-CAM protein expression. Alternatively, an antagonist includes a compound or signal that interferes with DS-CAM protein expression. Typically, the effect of an antagonist is observed as a blocking of agonist-induced protein activation. Antagonists include competitive and non-competitive antagonists. A competitive antagonist (or competitive blocker) interacts with or near the site specific for agonist binding. A non-competitive antagonist or blocker inactivates the function of the polypeptide by interacting with a site other than the agonist interaction site.

As understood by those of skill in the art, assay methods for identifying compounds that modulate DS-CAM activity generally require comparison to a control. One type of a "control" is a cell or culture that is treated substantially the same as the test cell or test culture exposed to the compound, with the distinction that the "control" cell or culture is not exposed to the compound. For example, in methods that use voltage clamp electrophysiological procedures, the same cell can be tested in the presence or absence of compound, by merely changing the external solution bathing the cell. Another type of "control" cell or culture may be a cell or culture that is identical to the transfected cells, with the exception that the "control" cell or culture do not express native proteins. Accordingly, the response of the transfected cell to compound is compared to the response (or lack thereof) of the "control" cell or culture to the same compound under the same reaction conditions.

Since it is well-known that CAMs interact with extracellular ligands, it is contemplated that invention DS-CAM proteins interact with extracellular ligands. In another embodiment of the present invention, it is contemplated that invention DS-CAM proteins act specifically in concert or in competition with other CAMs. Thus, the present invention contemplates various bioassays for identifying ligands for invention DS-CAM proteins. In addition, the present invention contemplates an assay measuring the effect of co-expressing during development either normal or defective invention DS-CAMs with other CAMs known in the art to assess the resulting phenotype.

In one embodiment of the present invention, there is provided a bioassay for evaluating whether test compounds are capable of acting as agonists comprises:

(a) culturing cells containing:

DNA which expresses DS-CAM protein(s) or functional modified forms thereof, and

DNA encoding a reporter protein, wherein said DNA is operatively linked to a DS-CAM responsive transcription element;

wherein said culturing is carried out in the presence of at least one compound whose ability to induce signal transduction activity of DS-CAM protein is sought to be determined, and thereafter

(b) monitoring said cells for expression of said reporter protein.

In another embodiment of the present invention, the bioassay for evaluating whether test compounds are capable of acting as antagonists for DS-CAM protein(s) of the invention, or functional modified forms of said DS-CAM protein(s), comprises:

(a) culturing cells containing:

DNA which expresses DS-CAM protein(s), or functional modified forms thereof, and

DNA encoding a reporter protein, wherein said DNA is operatively linked to a DS-CAM responsive transcription element

wherein said culturing is carried out in the presence of:

increasing concentrations of at least one compound whose ability to inhibit signal transduction activity of DS-CAM protein(s) is sought to be determined, and

a fixed concentration of at least one agonist for DS-CAM protein(s), or functional modified forms thereof; and thereafter

(b) monitoring in said cells the level of expression of said reporter protein as a function of the concentration of said compound, thereby indicating the ability of said compound to inhibit signal transduction activity.

In step (a) of the above-described antagonist bioassay, culturing may also be carried out in the presence of:

fixed concentrations of at least one compound whose ability to inhibit signal transduction activity of DS-CAM protein(s) is sought to be determined, and

an increasing concentration of at least one agonist for DS-CAM protein(s), or functional modified forms thereof.

In yet another embodiment of the present invention, it is contemplated that invention DS-CAM proteins mediate signal transduction through the modulation of adenylate cyclase. For example, when a DS-CAM ligand binds to DS-CAM, adenylate cyclase causes an elevation in the level of intracellular cAMP. Accordingly, in one embodiment of the present invention, the bioassay for evaluating whether test compounds are capable of acting as agonists or antagonists comprises:

(a) culturing cells containing:

DNA which expresses DS-CAM protein(s) or functional modified forms thereof,

wherein said culturing is carried out in the presence of at least one compound whose ability to modulate signal transduction activity of DS-CAM protein is sought to be determined, and thereafter

(b) monitoring said cells for either an increase or decrease in the level of intracellular cAMP.

Methods well-known in the art that measure intracellular levels of cAMP, or measure cyclase activity, can be employed in binding assays described herein to identify agonists and antagonists of the DS-CAM. For example, because activation of some CAMs results in decreases or increases in cAMP, assays that measure intracellular cAMP levels can be used to evaluate recombinant DS-CAMs expressed in mammalian host cells.

As used herein, "ability to modulate signal transduction activity of DS-CAM protein" refers to a compound that has the ability to either induce (agonist) or inhibit (antagonist) signal transduction activity of the DS-CAM protein.

Each of the invention bioassays (e.g., those described herein, and the like), can be conducted as competitive assays by co-expressing one or more members of the CAM immunoglobulin superfamily of proteins known in the art, such as N-CAMs, along with invention DS-CAMs. In addition, one or more members of the CAM immunoglobulin superfamily of proteins known in the art can be co-expressed with invention DS-CAMs to evaluate the agonistic or antagonistic effect on signal transduction of the non-DS-CAM members acting in concert with invention DS-CAMS.

In yet another embodiment of the present invention, the activation of DS-CAM polypeptides can be modulated by contacting the polypeptides with an effective amount of at least one compound identified by the above-described bioassays.

Members of the N-CAM superfamily of immunoglobulins have previously been implicated in disease. For example, various alterations of N-CAM levels have been seen in degenerative disease, developmental defects, and toxic conditions. Increases in the levels of N-CAM in the cerebrospinal fluid of patients with multiple sclerosis have been observed to parallel their clinical improvement (Massaro et al., Ital. J. Neurol. Sci. Suppl. **6**:85-88, 1987). Levels of N-CAM were reported to be elevated in the amniotic fluid of mothers carrying fetuses with neural tube defects (Ibsen et al., J. Neurochem. **41**:363-366, 1983). Since many such defects are likely to be due to mechanical aberrations rather than genetic defects, confirmation of these results would provide a new diagnostic component for prenatal testing. Another provocative finding relates to observations on the stimulation of Golgi sialyltransferases by lead (Breen and Regan, Development **104**:147-154, 1988; and Cookman et al., J. Neurochem. **49**:399-403, 1987). Exposure to lead chloride markedly stimulated sialyltransferase activity from postnatal days 16 to 30 in rate. This time is coincident with the period when N-CAM normally becomes less sialylated. Thus exposure to lead at critical developmental periods would presumably lead to more highly sialylated, less adhesive, forms of N-CAM: this prevention of E-A conversion could have significant effects on neural development. E-A conversion itself has been found to be delayed in the mouse mutant *staggerer* (Edelman and Chuong, Proc. Natl.

Acad. Sci. USA, **79**:7036-7042, 1982) in conjunction with the connectivity changes associated with the mutation.

The location and expression of DS-CAM in the Down Syndrome (DS) phenotype is supported by the studies of patients with partial trisomy 21. A subset of the DS features, including the typical facial appearance and mental retardation, were suggested by duplication of band 21q22 only (Niebuhr, Humangenetik **21**:99-101, 1974). Other studies mapped those features and congenital heart disease to the region 21q22.2-q22.3 and between D21S267 and MX1/MX2 (Korenberg et al., Am. J. Hum. Genet. **50**:294-302, 1992 and Korenberg et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA **91**:4997-5001, 1994), a region of about 4 Mb that contains DS-CAM. The Ts65Dn mouse model of DS contains the region of MMU16 (Pgk1-ps1 to MX1/2) that includes DS-CAM and reveals some of the neurobehaviourial features of DS (Reeves et al., Nature Genet. **11**:177-183, 1995 and Holtzman et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA **93**:13333-13338, 1996).

Close to 6% of DS individuals have Hirschsprung's disease (HSCR)(Garver et al., Clin. Genet. **28**:503-5-8, 1985) and more than 10% of all HSCR is associated with DS (Passarge, New Eng. J. Med. **276**:138-143, 1967). A modifier region of HSCR on chromosome 21q22 (D21S259 - D21S156) has been reported in non-DS HSCR (Puffenberger et al., Hum. Mol. Genet. **3**:1217-1225, 1994). The DS-CAM gene maps within this small region. The expression of DS-CAM in the neural crest derived enteric plexus of the gut was detected by mouse tissue in situ hybridization (Example 7). The function of the DS-CAM protein as a neural cell adhesion molecule and the association of this region of chromosome 21 with HSCR, indicate that DS-CAM can play a role in the migration of

the cranial neural crest that populate this region. Thus, DS-CAM overexpression is responsible for the chromosome 21 association in non-DS HSCR and for the HSCR seen in DS.

Mutations in the molecule CAM-L1, a molecule more similar to DS-CAM than to N-CAM (Figure 4), have established roles in human disease. The result in X-linked hydrocephalus (Rosenthal et al., Nature Genet. **2**:107-112, 1992), type 1 X-linked spastic paraplegia and the MASA syndrome (including mental retardation, aphasia, shuffling gait, adducted thumb and agenesis of the corpus callosum) (Jouet et al., Nature Genet. **7**:402-407, 1994). The perturbation of development by the aneuploid expression of CAM-L1 supports a role for the aneuploid expression of DS-CAM in the causation of developmental and neurological abnormalities.

In accordance with another embodiment of the present invention, there are provided methods for diagnosing DS-CAM associated disease, such as mental retardation, holoprosencephaly, agenesis of the corpus callosum, or schizencephaly, said method comprising:

detecting, in said subject, a genomic or transcribed mRNA sequence including SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:10, or fragments thereof.

Preferably, the DS-CAM nucleic acids detected in accordance with the invention diagnostic methods are either mutated in one form or another (such as point mutations, deletions, and the like), or are overexpressed relative to levels of DS-CAM expression in healthy non-diseased individuals.

In accordance with another embodiment of the present invention, there are provided diagnostic systems,

preferably in kit form, comprising at least one invention nucleic acid in a suitable packaging material. The diagnostic nucleic acids are derived from the DS-CAM-encoding nucleic acids described herein. In one embodiment, for example, the diagnostic nucleic acids are derived from SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:9 or SEQ ID NO:10. Invention diagnostic systems are useful for assaying for the presence or absence of nucleic acid encoding DS-CAM in either genomic DNA or in transcribed nucleic acid (such as mRNA or cDNA) encoding DS-CAM.

A suitable diagnostic system includes at least one invention nucleic acid, preferably two or more invention nucleic acids, as a separately packaged chemical reagent(s) in an amount sufficient for at least one assay. Instructions for use of the packaged reagent are also typically included. Those of skill in the art can readily incorporate invention nucleic probes and/or primers into kit form in combination with appropriate buffers and solutions for the practice of the invention methods as described herein.

As employed herein, the phrase "packaging material" refers to one or more physical structures used to house the contents of the kit, such as invention nucleic acid probes or primers, and the like. The packaging material is constructed by well known methods, preferably to provide a sterile, contaminant-free environment. The packaging material has a label which indicates that the invention nucleic acids can be used for detecting a particular sequence encoding DS-CAM including the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:9 or SEQ ID NO:10, thereby diagnosing the presence of, or a predisposition for, holoprosencephaly, agenesis of the corpus callosum, or for several phenotypes of Down

Syndrome including mental retardation, and the like. In addition, the packaging material contains instructions indicating how the materials within the kit are employed both to detect a particular sequence and diagnose the presence of, or a predisposition for, holoprosencephaly, agenesis of the corpus callosum, or for several phenotypes of Down syndrome including mental retardation, and the like.

The packaging materials employed herein in relation to diagnostic systems are those customarily utilized in nucleic acid-based diagnostic systems. As used herein, the term "package" refers to a solid matrix or material such as glass, plastic, paper, foil, and the like, capable of holding within fixed limits an isolated nucleic acid, oligonucleotide, or primer of the present invention. Thus, for example, a package can be a glass vial used to contain milligram quantities of a contemplated nucleic acid, oligonucleotide or primer, or it can be a microtiter plate well to which microgram quantities of a contemplated nucleic acid probe have been operatively affixed.

"Instructions for use" typically include a tangible expression describing the reagent concentration or at least one assay method parameter, such as the relative amounts of reagent and sample to be admixed, maintenance time periods for reagent/sample admixtures, temperature, buffer conditions, and the like.

All U.S. patents and all publications mentioned herein are incorporated in their entirety by reference thereto. The invention will now be described in greater detail by reference to the following non-limiting examples.

Materials and Methods

Unless otherwise stated, the present invention was performed using standard procedures, as described, for example in Maniatis et al., Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, New York, USA, 1982; Sambrook et al., supra, 1989; Davis et al., Basic Methods in Molecular Biology, Elsevier Science Publishing, Inc., New York, USA, 1986; or Methods in Enzymology: Guide to Molecular Cloning Techniques Vol. 152, S. L. Berger and A. R. Kimmerl Eds., Academic Press Inc., San Diego, USA, 1987.

Libraries.

Construction of Bacterial Artificial Chromosome (BAC) library. BAC library construction of total human genomic DNA was performed as described in Shizuya et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA **89**:8794-8797, 1992; and Hubert et al., Genomics **41**:218-226, 1997. Yeast artificial chromosome (YAC) clones were obtained from the CEPH mega-YAC library and grown under standard conditions (Cohen et al., Nature **366**:689-701 1993).

P1 artificial chromosome (PAC) library construction. A 3X human PAC library, designated RPCI-1 (Ioannou et al., Hum. Genet. 219-220, 1994) was constructed as described (Ioannou et al., Nat. Genet. **6**:84-89, 1994). The library was arrayed in 384 well dishes. Subsequently, STSs generated by sequencing of clones using vector primers were used as hybridization probes to gridded colony filters of the PAC library.

YAC DNA preparation. YAC clones were grown in selective media, pelleted and resuspended in 3 ml 0.9 M sorbitol, 0.1M EDTA pH 7.5, then incubated with 100 U of

lytocase (Sigma, St. Louis, MO) at 37°C for 1 hour. After centrifugation for 5 minutes at 5,000 rpm pellets were resuspended in 3 ml 50 mM Tris pH 7.45, 20 mM EDTA 0.3ml 10% SDS was added and the mixture was incubated at 65°C for 30 minutes. One ml of 5 M potassium acetate was added and tubes were left on ice for 1 hour, then centrifuged at 10,000 rpm for 10 minutes. Supernatant was precipitated in 2 volumes of ethanol and pelleted at 6,000 rpm for 15 minutes. Pellets were resuspended in TE, treated with RNase and reextracted with phenol-chloroform.

Analysis by fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH). PAC or BAC clones were biotinylated by nicktranslation in the presence of biotin-14-dATP using the BioNick Labeling Kit (Gibco-BRL). FISH was performed essentially as described (Korenberg et al., Cytogenet. Cell Genet. **69**:196-200, 1995). Briefly, 400 ng of probe DNA was mixed with 8 ng of human Cot 1 DNA (Gibco-BRL) and 2 µg of sonicated salmon sperm DNA in order to suppress possible background produced from repetitive human sequences as well as yeast sequences in the probe. The probes were denatured at 75°C, preannealed at 37°C for one hour, and applied to denatured chromosome slides prepared from normal male lymphocytes (Korenberg et al., supra, 1995). Post-hybridization washes were performed at 40°C in 2X SSC/50% formamide followed by washes in 1X SSC at 50°C. Hybridized DNAs were detected with avidin-conjugated fluorescent isothiocyanate (Vector Laboratories). One amplification was performed by using biotinylated anti-avidin. For distinguishing chromosome subbands precisely, a reverse banding technique was used, which was achieved by chromomycin A3 and distamycin A double staining (Korenberg et al., supra, 1995). The color images were captured by using a Photometrics

Cooled-CCD camera and BDS image analysis software (Oncor Imaging, Inc.).

Southern blot analysis. Gel electrophoresis of DNA was carried out on 0.8% agarose gels in 1X TBE. Transfer of nucleic acids to ~~Nybond~~ HYBOND® N+ nylon membrane (Amersham) was performed according to the manufacturer's instruction. Probes were labeled using RadPrime Labeling System (BRL). Hybridization was carried out at 42°C for 16 hours in 50% formamide, 5X SSPE, 5X Denhardt's 0.1% SDS, 100 mg/ml denatured salmon sperm DNA. The filters were washed once in 1x SSC, 0.1% SDS at room temperature for 20 minutes, and twice in 0.1X SSC, 0.1% SDS for 20 minutes at 65°C. The blots were exposed onto X-ray film (Kodak, X-OMAT-AR).

Sequencing of PAC and BAC endclones. PAC clones were inoculated into 500 ml of LB/kanamycin and grown overnight. BAC clones were inoculated into 500 ml of LB/chloramphenicol and grown overnight. DNAs were isolated using QIAGEN columns according to the vendors protocol with one additional phenol/chloroform/isoamylalcohol extraction followed by one additional chloroform/isoamylalcohol extraction. Clones were sequenced using the Gibco-BRL cycle sequencing kit with standard T7 and SP6 primers.

EXAMPLE 1

Construction of BAC Contig

To provide stable clones for gene isolation and sequencing initiatives in the D21S55 to MX1 region, contigs were constructed using Bacterial Artificial Chromosomes (BACs) and P1 Artificial Chromosomes (PACs). BAC library construction of total human genomic DNA was performed as described (Shiyuza et al., supra, 1992; Kim

et al., Genomics **34**:213-218, 1996). A BAC library was screened using several YACs spanning the region; a PAC library (Iannou et al., Nature Genet. **6**:84-89, 1994) was screened using radiolabeled STS PCR products and whole BACs in gap filling initiatives.

The location of these BAC and PAC clones was confirmed by fluorescence *in situ* hybridization (FISH). Clone to clone Southerns using 24 new STSs (generated from direct sequencing of BAC and PAC ends) along with 35 pre-existing STSs were used to show overlaps between BACs and PACs. The STS density over the intervals covered in BACs and PACs was 1 STS every 60 kb, and 79% of the clones were positive for 2 or more STSs. Approximately 3.5Mb of the 4-5Mb D21S55 to MX1 interval is covered in 85 BACs and 25 PACs representing 4-fold coverage within the contigs (Hubert et al., Genomics **41**:218-226, 1997). The minimal contig sizes as determined by counting only non-overlapping clones are: 1100 kb, 900 kb, 510 kb, 380 kb and 270 kb. Insert size of BAC clones was measured by running pulse-field gel electrophoresis after digesting DNA with NotI.

EXAMPLE 2

Direct cDNA Selection

A modified direct cDNA selection technique (Yamakawa et al., Hum. Mol. Genet. **4**:709-716, 1995; Yamakawa et al., Cytogenet. Cell Genet. **74**:140-145, 1996) was applied to BAC-423A5, BAC-430F1, BAC-628H2, BAC-371H8 and PAC-31P10 (Figure 1) by using cDNA from trisomy 21 human fetal brain, and the selected fragments were then subcloned into a plasmid vector.

Total RNA was isolated from 14 week trisomy 21 fetal brain using TRI region™ (Molecular Research Center, Inc.). Poly $(A)^+$ RNA was isolated using Poly (A) Quick® mRNA isolation kit (STRATAGENE). Double stranded cDNA was synthesized using SuperScript™ Choice System (GIBCO BRL) from 5 μg trisomy 21 fetal brain poly $(A)^+$ RNA using 1 μg oligo $(dT)_{15}$ or 0.1 μg random hexamer. The entire synthesis reaction was purified by Gene Clean®II kit (BIO101, Inc.) and then kinased. Sau3AI linker was attached to the cDNA which was subsequently digested with Sau3AI. The reaction was purified using Gene Clean. MboI linker was attached to the cDNA and the reaction purified by Gene Clean (Morgan et al., supra, 1992). The synthesized product was amplified by PCR using one strand of MboI linker (5'CCTGATGCTCGAGTGAATTC3') (SEQ ID NO:4) as a primer. PCR cycling conditions were 40 cycles of 94°C/15 seconds, 60°C/23 seconds, 72°C/2 minutes in a 100 μl of 1x PCR buffer (Promega), 3 mM $MgCl_2$, 5.0 units of Taq polymerase (Promega), 2 μM primer and 0.2 mM dNTPs.

Nineteen BAC DNAs (total 2.5 μg) and 2 PAC DNAs between the region ETS2 and MX1 were prepared using QIAGEN plasmid kit and were biotinylated using Nick Translation Kit and biotin-16-dUTP (Boehringer Manneheim). 3 μg of heat denatured PCR amplified cDNA was annealed with 3 μg of heat denatured COT1 DNA (BRL) in 100μl hybridization buffer (750 mM NaCl, 50 mM $NaPO_4$(pH7.2), 5 mM EDTA, 5X Denhardt's, 0.05% SDS and 50% formamide) at 42°C for two hours. After prehybridization, 1.2 μg of heat denatured biotinylated BAC DNA was added and incubated at 42°C for 16 hours. cDNA-BAC DNA hybrids were precipitated with EtOH and dissolved in 60 μl of 10 mM Tris-HCl (pH 8.0), 1 mM EDTA. After addition of 40 μl 5 M NaCl, the DNA was incubated with magnetic beads (Dynabeads M-280, Dynal) at 25°C for 1 hour with gentle rotating to allow attachment of the DNA to the magnetic beads. The beads were then washed

twice by pipetting in 400 μl of 2X SSC, setting in magnet holder (MPC-E_{TM}, Dynal) for 30 seconds and removing the supernatant. Four additional washes were performed in 0.2X SSC at 68°C for 10 minutes each with transfer of the beads to new tubes at each wash. cDNAs were eluted in 100μl of distilled water for 10 minutes at 80°C with occasional mixing. The eluted cDNAs were amplified by PCR as described above. After twice repeating the selection procedure using magnetic beads, amplified cDNAs were digested with EcoRI and subcloned into pBlueScript KS+ (STRATAGENE). Insert DNAs were isolated from the subclones, and were analyzed by Southern hybridization and DNA sequencing.

The direct cDNA selection procedure using 19 BACs and 2 PACs between ETS2 and MX1 generated a total of 145 unique cDNA fragments. Genbank and TIGR homology searches using FASTA revealed matches to ETS2, HMG14, PEP19, a Na K ATPase, Titan ESTs, MX1 region ESTs, and 14 ESTs of unknown function. A cDNA library from a trisomy 21 fetal brain at 14 weeks gestation was screened using one of these unique cDNA fragments labeled "E51" (SEQ ID NO:3).

EXAMPLE 3

Isolation of human DS-CAM cDNA using cDNA Library Screening

A trisomy 21 human fetal brain (14 weeks of age) cDNA library was constructed using ZAP-cDNA® synthesis kit (STRATAGENE) which generates a unidirectional cDNA library. Briefly, double- stranded cDNA was synthesized from 5 μg trisomy 21 fetal brain poly$(A)^+$ RNA using a hybrid oligo(dT)-XhoI linker primer with 5-methyl dCTP. An EcoRI linker was attached to the cDNA which was subsequently digested with EcoRI and XhoI,

and then cloned into UNI-ZAP XR vector (STRATAGENE). The library was packaged using Gigapack® II Gold packaging extract. The titer of the original library was 1.1 x 10^6 p.f.u./package. The library was amplified once. A blue-white color assay indicated that 99% of the clones had inserts.

Screening of the trisomy 21 fetal brain cDNA library was performed using one of the 145 unique cDNA fragments labeled "E51" (SEQ ID NO:3) prepared as described above. Phages were plated to an average density of 1 x 10^5 per 175 cm^2 plate. Plaque lifts of 20 plates (2 x 10^6 phages) were made using duplicated nylon membranes (Hybond-N+; Amersham). Hybridized membranes were washed to final stringency of 0.2X SSC, 0.1X SDS at 65°C. The filters were exposed overnight onto X-ray film.

Identification of 62 clones were made out of 2 x 10^6 clones in the original library. Eighteen of these positive phage clones were converted to plasmids, and their DNAs were isolated. These cDNAs were independently numbered as separate DS-CAM (Down Syndrome Cell Adhesion Molecule) clones. The length of the inserts of these clones ranged from 2.4 kb to 6.6 kb. Exon trapping (Buckler et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA **88**:4005-4009, 1991; Church et al., Nature Genet. **6**:98-105, 1994) was also used to isolate cDNAs in the BAC and PAC contig. With this approach, three exons identified from BAC-539E7 and one from BAC-430F1 were found to identify the same sequences as those isolated by cDNA selection.

Sequence analysis of one of the clones, labeled DS-CAM-42, revealed a 6110 bp DNA sequence which contained a large ORF (5687 bp) as well as 3'-UTR sequence (423 bp), but the 5'UTR and start codon were not located in clone DS-CAM-42. To characterize the 5' end,

two further clones, DS-CAM-18 of 6.5 kb and DS-CAM-52 of 6.6 kb were characterized. Sequence analyses of these clones close to the 5' end overlap with sequence at the 5' end of DS-CAM-42. However, DS-CAM-18 extends 416 bp farther 5', and DS-CAM-52 extends 494 bp farther 5' than DS-CAM-42. The extra 494 bp sequence extends the ORF by 43 bp at the 5' end and contains a start codon. Two stop codons occur 330 bp and 427 bp upstream of the start codon. The 494 bp of additional 5' sequence found in DS-CAM-52 combined with DS-CAM-42 (6604 bp) yield a consensus cDNA that encodes one isoform of the invention protein labeled DS-CAM1. The DS-CAM1 cDNA contains an open reading frame of 5730 bp (SEQ ID NO:1) coding for a 1910 amino acid protein (SEQ ID NO:2; approximately 211 kilodaltons), flanked by 452 bp of 5'-UTR and 422 bp of 3'-UTR. The 5'-UTR is highly GC rich (81% GC over 452 bp) and contains 13 MspI sites, as well as 72 CG and 93 GC dinucleotide pairs.

The DS-CAM1 protein contains an extracellular component at the N-terminus consisting of nine tandemly repeated Ig-like C2 type domains and a tenth Ig-like C2 domain located between domains four and five of an array of six repeated fibronectin type III domains (Figure 2). Each Ig-like C2 domain consists of approximately 100 amino acids with a pair of conserved cysteines separated by 49-56 residues. A single transmembrane domain of 22 amino acids was defined by using the TMBASE program (Hoffmann and Stoffel, Biol. Chem. Hoppe-Seyler **374**:166, 1993). The remaining 294 amino acids at the C-terminus corresponding to the cytoplasmic domain have partial homologies to the mouse M-phase inducer phosphatase 2 (Kakizuka et al., Genes Dev. **6**:578-590, 1992) in two regions, one with 34% identity and 52% similarity over 46 bp and a second with 38% identity and 52% similarity over 21 bp. The homolog of Drosophila glass gene (O'Neill et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA **92**:6557-6561, 1995) with

30% identity and 52% similarity over 42 bp, and the mouse delta opioid receptor (Evans et al., Science **258**:1952-1955, 1992) with 43% identity and 60% similarity over 30 bp. The putative protein contains 16 potential N-glycosylation sites.

A homology search of the predicted amino acid sequence of the 5730 bp open reading frame of DS-CAM1 (SEQ ID NO:1) to genes registered in the Genbank and the EMBL databases was conducted by using the BLAST-P program (Altschul et al., J. Mol. Biol. **215**:403-410, 1990). The predicted amino acid sequence revealed homologies to multiple proteins (Figure 4) including CAM-L1 (Moos et al., Nature **334**:701-703, 1988), BIG-1 (brain-derived immunoglobulin (Ig) superfamily molecule-1) (Yoshihara et al., Neuron **13**:415-426, 1994), DCC (deleted in colon cancer) (Fearon et al., Science **247**:49-56, 1990), and revealed DS-CAM as defining a novel class of the immunoglobulin (Ig) superfamily. Homology searches with sequences of Ig type-C2 domains and fibronectin type-III domains of the most highly related Ig-superfamily members (CAM-L1, DCC, and axonin-1) were conducted by using the FASTA program (Pearson and Lipman, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA **85**:2444-2448, 1988).

In addition, a splice variant cDNA sequence encoding a non-membrane bound isoform of DS-CAM1, referred to herein as DS-CAM2, is provided herein. Two human DS-CAM cDNA clones (DS-CAM-18 and DS-CAM-52) were found to contain identical deletions of 191 bp that occur in neighboring exons and that delete bp 5133 to 5323 of the SEQ ID NO:1 cDNA sequence encoding DS-CAM1 (Figure 3). The resulting splice variant transcript encoding DS-CAM2 (SEQ ID NO:10) is deleted for the entire transmembrane domain that is encoded by the more 3' of these exons. Further, the deletion changes the reading

frame and creates a stop codon 36 bp downstream of the deletion resulting in a soluble extracellular protein of 1571 amino acids (SEQ ID NO:11). The distal border of the resulting deletion contains the canonical AG of the RNA splicing consensus acceptor site. The proximal border contains a variant of the donor splice site consensus sequence (Jackson, Nucl. Acids Res. **19**:3795-3798, 1991).

To confirm that the DS-CAM cDNA originated from the BACs and PACs in the Down syndrome region and to determine the genomic size of DS-CAM, the longest DS-CAM cDNA clones (DS-CAM-42; 6.1 kb, DS-CAM-18; 6.5 kb, DS-CAM-52; 6.6 kb) were hybridized to Southern blots containing the BAC and PAC clone contig (Figure 1). DS-CAM-42, 18 and 52 hybridized to BACs 423A5, 430F1, 628H2, 539E7, 371H8, 825E1, 593D1, 261F12, 30E4, 385B7, 388F4, and to PACs 31P10, 58D10. BACs 816F6, 116E8, 720G4, 619H8 were only positive for DS-CAM-18 and DS-CAM-52 but negative for DS-CAM-42. All other BACs shown in Figure 1 were negative. These results indicate that the DS-CAM gene spans 900 kb-1200 kb genomic DNA and covers a gap in this BAC and PAC contig indicated by an arrowhead as well as in the available YAC contigs (Korenberg et al., Genome Res. **5**:427-443, 1995; Gardiner et al., Somat. Cell Mol. Genet. **21**:399-414, 1995). DS-CAM cDNA sequences were confirmed to originate from these BACs and PACs by direct sequencing of the BACs and PACs as templates using cDNA sequence-specific primers.

The map position of DS-CAM on chromosome 21q22.2-22.3 was confirmed by using clone DS-CAM-42 as a probe for fluorescence in-situ hybridization. Two independent experiments were performed and over 100 metaphase cells were evaluated. Signals were clearly seen on two chromatids of at least one chromosome in 85%

of cells. There were no other double signal sites seen in greater than 1% of cells.

EXAMPLE 4

Northern Blot Analysis Of Human DS-CAM Expression

Inserts containing DS-CAM cDNA were excised from the base vector by digestion with XhoI and EcoRI. After labeling using the random priming method (RadPrime Labeling System; GIBCO BRL),followed by purification using G-50 Sephadex columns (Quick Spin Column; Boehringer Mannheim), the fragments were used a probes for Northern hybridization using Multiple Tissue Northern Blot (Clontech). A Northern blot assay was conducted using DS-CAM cDNA as a probe in various fetal and adult tissues including heart, brain, placenta, lung, liver, skeletal muscle, kidney, and pancreas. Northern hybridization was performed by following the manufacturer's instructions. The hybridized membrane was washed at a final stringency of 0.1X SSC and 0.1X SDS at 50°C. The filter was exposed to X-ray film (Kodak X-OMAT AR) at -70°C for 1-5 days.

The results of Northern analysis using human fetal tissues showed that 8.5 kb and 7.6 kb transcripts are expressed only in fetal brain and not expressed in fetal lung, fetal liver and fetal kidney. In adult tissues, three transcripts of 9.7 kb, 8.5 kb, and 7.6 kb are present in the brain. Placenta shows faint bands, and the sizes are similar to those in brain. In skeletal muscle, a faint smaller band (6.5 kb) is detected. In multiple parts of the adult human brain, transcripts of 9.7 kb, 8.5 kb and 7.6 kb are differentially expressed. The 9.7 kb transcript is highly expressed in the substantia nigra, moderately expressed in amygdala and hippocampus, and less expressed in the whole brain. A

similar pattern is obtained using a PCR product which spans the 191 bp deletion found in clones DS-CAM-18 and DS-CAM-52 encoding the splice variant sequence corresponding to DS-CAM2. Thus, splice variant cDNA transcripts encoding a DS-CAM family of proteins are clearly contemplated by the present invention.

EXAMPLE 5

RT-PCR Assays Of Human DS-CAM Expression

Reverse-transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) assays verses cDNA libraries of various human tissues were conducted using primers numbered B9-131F (SEQ ID NO:5) and B9-131R (SEQ ID NO:6). The results demonstrated expression of human DS-CAM mRNA in fetal and adult brain, and fetal kidney. In addition, a breast carcinoma cell line showed expression of human DS-CAM mRNA.

The cDNAs from 13 independent human fetal and adult sources were analyzed by PCR using primer pairs that flanked the alternatively spliced region that results in a 191 base pair deletion of nucleotides 5133-5323 of the DS-CAM1 cDNA set forth in SEQ ID NO:1. The primers were designed to generate products of different sizes for each of the two alternatively spliced transcripts: 536 bp corresponding to the non-deleted DS-CAM-1 transcript and 345 bp corresponding to the deleted DS-CAM2 transcripts. The analyses included adult samples from amygdala (24 years), skeletal muscle (36 years) and three independent lymphoblastoid cell lines. Fetal samples included whole brain of a trisomy 21 fetus (14 weeks), four from whole brain (4.5-13 weeks), one from temporal lobe (28 weeks) and two from heart (4.5 and 13 weeks). The results indicate that all fetal and adult samples produced two bands corresponding to PCR products

of the predicted sizes which indicates the expression of two alternatively spliced transcripts.

EXAMPLE 6

Isolation of mouse DS-CAM cDNA clones

A mouse brain cDNA library was prepared from 19 week old female C57 Black/6 mice in the Uni-ZAP XR Vector (STRATAGENE). The cDNAs were oligo-dT primed and cloned unidirectionally into the EcoRI and XhoI sites of the vector. The average insert size is 1.0 kb. The library was screened using a human DS-CAM cDNA clone as a probe. Two partial mouse DS-CAM cDNA clones were isolated and sequenced. The combined nucleotide sequences of these clones are set forth in SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:8 and SEQ ID NO:9, and were found to represent the 5', middle and 3' portions, respectively, of cDNA encoding a mouse DS-CAM.

EXAMPLE 7

Hybridization analysis of DS-CAM cDNA in mouse tissues

BALB/c and C57BL/6 x DBA/2 embryos, fetuses and postnatal brains were fixed and embedded as described in detail in Lyons et al., (J. Neurosci. **15**:5727-5738, 1995). Embryos were fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde in phosphate buffered saline (PBS) overnight, dehydrated and infiltrated with paraffin. Five to seven micron serial sections were mounted on gelatinized slides. Two sections were mounted/slide, deparaffinized in xylene, rehydrated and post-fixed. The sections were digested with proteinase K, post-fixed, treated with tri-ethanolamine/acetic anhydride, washed and dehydrated. cRNA probes were prepared from DS-CAM-M-14. The plasmid was linearized with XbaI and T7 polymerase was used to

generate the antisense cRNA. The plasmid was linearized with KpnI and T3 polymerase was used to generate the sense control cRNA. The cRNA transcripts were synthesized according to manufacturer's conditions (STRATAGENE) and labeled with ^{35}S-UTP (>1000 Ci/mmol; Amersham). cRNA transcripts larger than 100 nucleotides were subjected to alkali hydrolysis to give a mean size of 70 bases for efficient hybridization.

Sections were hybridized overnight at 52°C in 50% deionized formamide, 0.3M NaCl, 20 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.4, 5 mM EDTA, 10 mM NaPO4, 10% dextran sulfate, 1x Denhardt's, 50 μg/ml total yeast RNA, and 50-75,000 cpm/μl ^{35}S-labeled cRNA probe. The tissue was subjected to stringent washing at 65°C in 50% formamide, 2X SSC, 10 mM DTT and washed in PBS before treatment with 20 μg/ml RNase A at 37°C for 30 minutes. Following washes in 2X SSC and 0.1X SSC for 10 minutes at 37°C, the slides were dehydrated and dipped in Kodak NTB-2 nuclear track emulsion and exposed for 2-3 weeks in light-tight boxes with desiccant at 4°C. Photographic development was carried out in Kodak D-19. Slides were counterstained lightly with toluidine blue and analyzed using both light- and darkfield optics of a Zeiss Axiophot microscope. Sense control cRNA probes (identical to the mRNAs) always gave background levels of hybridization signal. Embryonic structures were identified with the help of the following atlases: Rugh (The Mouse: Its Reproduction and Development. Oxford Univ. Press, Oxford, UK, 1990), Kaufman (The Atlas of Mouse Development. Acad. Press, New York, NY, 1992), and Altman and Bayer (supra, 1995).

Tissue in situ hybridization analysis was performed using a mouse cDNA as a probe on sections of normal mouse embryos from days 8.5-17.5 post coitum (pc) as well as in newborn, two weeks and adult brains as

described above. The results indicate that there is no detectable expression of DS-CAM at 8.5 days pc. At 9.5 days pc, expression was detected in the neuroepithelium. Low levels of expression were detected within the branchial arches, suggestive of migrating neural crest cells. At 10.5 days pc, the trigeminal ganglia (neural crest derived) begin to express the transcript and expression within the branchial arches was more evident.

Expression at 11.5 days pc was abundant throughout the brain. The transcript was found within the regions of the nervous system that differentiate earliest during development (Altman and Bayer, supra, 1995). In the brain, this includes the ventral-most regions, such as the thalamus and medulla. Some expression was detected within the olfactory epithelium. Expression within the neural tube begins in two areas: the ventrolateral (corresponding to the areas in which the motor neurons differentiate) and the lateral gray columns (that later form commissural neurons) (Leber et al., J Neurosci. **15**:1236-1248, 1990). The dorsal root ganglia (neural crest derived) expressed the transcript at 11.5 days pc. The trigeminal ganglia show higher levels at 11.5 days pc than they did at 10.5 days. Migrating neural crest can be seen within the maxilla, the mandibular arch, and in the developing gut. Signal was observed within the mesenchyme surrounding the umbilical vein and artery.

At 12.5 days pc, expression was more extensive than at 11.5 days pc. More of the nervous system exhibits expression of the transcript, including a larger portion of midbrain, the pontine areas, the basal ganglia and the outermost layer of cortex. Neurons in this layer have undergone mitosis in the subependymal layer of the cortex and migrated into the mantle layer of the cerebral

cortex as differentiated cells (Smart et al., J. Comp. Neurol. **116**:325-347, 1961).

At 13.5 days pc, expression was seen throughout most of the brain. The outermost layer of the gut also appears to be expressing at this stage; these cells are neural crest derived and form the myenteric ganglia. At 15.5 and 16.5 days pc, most of the neural crest derived neural structures have some expression. For example, the regions of the snout that will develop into the sensory structures at the base of the vibrissae, the pancreatic ganglia, the heart ganglion, the enteric nervous system, and the sympathetic trunk all express the transcript.

There is no expression within the umbilicus at this stage. Two non-neuronal structures express this gene, the gonad and the annulus fibrosus of the intervertebral disk. The olfactory bulb exhibits signal both in the granule cells and within the tufted mitral cells. Within the newborn brain, the transcript was expressed most extensively within the differentiating regions such as the septal area, olfactory bulb, inferior colliculus and hippocampus. In the adult brain, the gene was expressed in many areas including amygdala, cortex, hippocampus and thalamus. In the adult cerebellum the transcripts were detected in the Purkinje cell layer and in the deep cerebellar nuclei.

While the invention has been described in detail with reference to certain preferred embodiments thereof, it will be understood that modifications and variations are within the spirit and scope of that which is described and claimed.

Summary of Sequences

SEQ ID NO:1 is the nucleic acid sequence (and the deduced amino acid sequence) of cDNA encoding a novel human DS-CAM1 protein of the present invention.

SEQ ID NO:2 is the deduced amino acid sequence of a human DS-CAM1 protein of the present invention.

SEQ ID NO:3 is the cDNA probe (labeled "E51") used to isolate cDNA encoding human DS-CAM.

SEQ ID NO:4 is an MboI linker sequence.

SEQ ID NO:5 is a primer labeled B9-131F used in the RT-PCR assay described in Example 5.

SEQ ID NO:6 is a primer labeled B9-131R used in the RT-PCR assay described in Example 5.

SEQ ID NO:7 is the 5' region of a partial mouse-derived cDNA clone encoding an invention DS-CAM protein.

SEQ ID NO:8 is the middle region of a partial mouse-derived cDNA clone encoding an invention DS-CAM protein.

SEQ ID NO:9 is the 3' region of a partial mouse-derived cDNA clone encoding an invention DS-CAM protein.

SEQ ID NO:10 is the nucleic acid sequence (and the deduced amino acid sequence) of cDNA encoding a novel human DS-CAM2 protein of the present invention.

SEQ ID NO:11 is the deduced amino acid sequence of a human DS-CAM2 protein of the present invention, which is a splice variant of DS-CAM1 (SEQ ID NO:2).